Reports. NWDA has prepared Feasibility Reports (FRs) for 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links under Himalayan Component (Indian portion). Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for one priority link *viz.*, Ken-Betwa link has been taken up by NWDA after signing of a tripartite agreement between the Government of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on 25.08.2005. Implementation of inter-basin water transfer proposals depends upon consensus and cooperation of the concerned States. No interlinking project under NPP is under implementation.

(c) and (d) In view of the above, do not arise.

MoU between Indian and Chinese scientists on rivers

863. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation and the Beijing based Chinese Academy of Sciences signed a Memorandum of Understanding in New Delhi in December, 2006;

(b) if so, whether under the agreement a team of India and Chinese scientists would undertake a joint expedition in the Himalayas to find out the exact source of two of Asia's biggest rivers, the Brahmaputra and the Sutlej which are believed to orginate from Mount Kailash in Tibet and trace their exact source;

(c) if so, whether the experts of both the countries have submitted their report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indian Mountaineering Foundation and Chinese Academy of Science was signed on 21st December, 2006.

(b) As per MoU on Indo-China Scientific Expedition to the sources of two great rivers Brahmaputra and Sutlej, six scientists from India and China and two climbers from India including supporting members are to undertake a joint expedition in June, 2007. The study area is mainly restricted in Tibet and the Brahmaputa River Valley.

(c) and (d) Do not arise as the expedition has not yet commenced.

Sanctioning of irrigation projects in Bihar

864. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects sanctioned in Bihar during the last three years stating the details thereof, indicating their present status;

(b) the number of canals in which water is flowing and the number of canals which are lying dry causing hardship to farmers in irrigating their fields; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the canal irrigation facilities in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Two irrigation projects, namely Punpun Barrage Scheme and Restoration work of Eastern Gandak Canal System have been accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission during the last three years. The financial and physical details of these two proejcts are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Irrigation being a State subject, the projects are planned, funded and executed by the State Government as per their own requirements and priority of works. However, as per information provided by Government of Bihar, the details of designed discharge/average discharge of the canals under major irrigation projects in the Bihar State are as follows:-